



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

HALLIDAY PLEADS GUILTY TO CONTEMPT OF COURT; REFUSED JUDGE'S ORDER DIRECTING HIM TO TESTIFY

SALT LAKE CITY – Jordan Halliday, 22, of Salt Lake City, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court Tuesday morning to one count contempt of court. Sentencing in the case is set for Oct. 19, 2010, at 2 p.m. before U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart.

Halliday, who was indicted on the charge in June 2009, admitted that he knowingly disobeyed and resisted an order of the federal court to testify before a federal grand jury. He admitted that Chief Judge Tena Campbell directly ordered him to testify on March 4, 2009, and again on March 13, 2009, in a matter before the grand jury. Halliday admitted that he refused to answer questions before the grand jury without having a privilege or just cause to excuse not answering the questions by or before the grand jury.

In exchange for the guilty plea, federal prosecutors agreed to recommend credit for acceptance of responsibility if, in the prosecutors'

opinion, the defendant demonstrates acceptance of responsibility up to and including at the time of sentencing.

According to documents filed in the case, during the early part of 2009, a federal grand jury in Utah was investigating possible acts of animal enterprise terrorism. On March 4, 2009, William James Viehl and Alex Jason Hall were indicted on two counts of animal enterprise terrorism in connection with an August 19, 2008, attack on the McMullin mink farm, and an October 19, 2008, attempt to intentionally damage the Mathews mink farm. Although other perpetrators are suspected, the investigation has not resulted in an indictment against any other individuals nor has the investigation resulted in an indictment for the unsolved mink-release attack on the Lodder mink farm in Kaysville in September 2008.

As part of the grand jury's investigation into these mink-farm attacks, Halliday, who was believed to have information relevant to the grand jury's investigation, appeared before the grand jury. Halliday refused to answer questions during his appearance even after Judge Campbell ordered him to testify. Halliday's continuing refusal to testify without just cause resulted in a criminal indictment for contempt of court. He also was in custody for about four months as a part of his continued refusal to testify.

The potential penalty for a conviction of contempt of court is a term of imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court and a term of supervised release of up to five years.

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